

HELPING GOVERNMENT LAWYERS MEET THEIR PRO BONO ASPIRATIONS, WHILE HELPING IDAHO'S SCHOOLCHILDREN UNDERSTAND THEIR GOVERNMENT



Idaho Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1 reminds us that “[e]very lawyer has a professional responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay. A lawyer should aspire to render at least (50) hours of *pro bono publico* legal services per year.

Many government lawyers have a difficult time meeting this goal, due to ethical limitations on our ability to provide direct representation to private clients.

Rule 6.1(b)(3) reminds us that a lawyer should “provide additional legal services through: . . . participation in activities for improving the law, the legal system or the legal profession.”

The Idaho State Bar and its members have taken that rule to heart, and demonstrated their commitment to civic education through programs such as the Law Related Education (“LRE”) committee and program.

Visit http://www.isb.idaho.gov/ilf/menu_lre.html

To learn more about all the programs that ILF provides to the community.

WHY BE CONCERNED ABOUT CIVIC EDUCATION?

Former United States Supreme Court Justice David Souter expressed his concern about civic education in the United States when he said, ***"I don't believe there is any problem of American politics in American public life which is more significant today than the pervasive civic ignorance of the Constitution of the United States and the structure of government."***

Former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor stated, ***"We are failing to impart the basic knowledge that young people need in order to become effective citizens and leaders when they are of voting age."***

In 2012, Xavier University's Center for the Study of the American Dream released the results of a study in which native-born United States citizens took the civics portion of the United States Naturalization test.

While the pass rate for immigrants seeking citizenship was reported to be 97.5 percent, one in three United States citizens born in this country failed the civics portion.

Among the questions:

- The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers. (8% answered correctly)
- When was the Constitution written? (9% answered correctly)
- What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence? (18% answered correctly)
- Who was President during World War One (21% answered correctly)
- What does the judicial branch do? (25% answered correctly)

MORE CAUSE FOR CONCERN

IOLTA funding of Idaho's Law Related Education programs has decreased by 80% over the last 5 years.

Congressional funding of We The People and Project Citizen eliminated in 2010.

These budget cuts hit rural school districts especially hard, because many civic education programs have a travel component, requiring significant funds to participate.

HOW CAN GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS HELP?

- **Get involved with LRE programs**
- **Help out in your local schools**
- **Volunteer as a judge or coach of a team**
 - **Mock trial**
 - **We The People**
 - **YMCA Youth Government**
- **Volunteer to help when the 2016 National Mock Trial Competition comes to Boise!**

.... And, of course, join ACE!



- ACE is a public service project of the Idaho State Bar Government and Public Lawyer Section – but anyone can join.
- ACE is a “booster club” for k-12 civic education programs in Idaho. ACE raises awareness, volunteerism, and funds for civic education programs in Idaho.
- ACE does not create new programs, content, or curriculum.

Created in June 2013, ACE's accomplishments so far:

- created a website: attorneysforciviceducation.org
- published an article in *The Advocate*
- co-hosted two Constitution Day CLEs with Concordia School of Law
- recruited about 25 lawyers as active ACE members
- recruited 50 new volunteers for civic education programs in Idaho

ACE's plans for the future:

- Implement “**An Hour for Civics**” fundraising campaign.
- Sponsor the February 2015 edition of *The Advocate* and provide 5 articles related to civic education with guest authors:
 - Secretary of State Ysursa
 - Attorney General Wasden
 - Court of Appeals Judge Lansing
 - Dean Burnett
 - Merlyn Clark
- Partner with BSU's Andrus Center for Public Policy to host a major fundraising and awareness-raising event in the Fall of 2015 with keynote speaker.

... And annually:

- Organizing an annual awareness-raising or fundraising event on Constitution Day (September 17).
- Publishing at least one article in *The Advocate* regarding a topic related to ACE's mission.
- ACE will conduct other activities on an *ad hoc* basis. Our events and fundraising committees are open to ideas and partnerships.

❖ **ACE has 4 committees:**

- media/marketing
- fundraising
- events/CLE
- statewide outreach

❖ **Currently, ACE is focusing its active efforts on:**

- We The People
- Idaho Mock Trial
- 2016 National Mock Trial in Boise (May 12-14)

❖ **We The People - Idaho (February/March 2015)**

- We The People is a high school, middle school, and upper elementary school curriculum provided by the Center for Civic Education.
- <http://new.civiced.org/programs/wtp>
- The program enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy and also encourages students to apply those principles to contemporary society and events.
- The simulated congressional hearing make teaching and learning exciting for both students and teachers.
- Since its inception in 1987, more than 28 million students and 75,000 educators have participated in the We the People Program.

In 2014, Idaho's Blackfoot High School won a national "unit" award at the We The People national competition – out of 56 competitors.



The Blackfoot team was coached by teacher Holly Kartchner and Idaho State Bar and ACE member Lauren Murdoch

The “unit” that questions that Blackfoot won:

1. In Federalist 70, Alexander Hamilton argues that “Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government.” Do you agree or disagree? Why? What evidence can you offer to support your position?

- **How would you describe “energy” in the executive? What are its essential ingredients?**

- **How would you define a “feeble” executive? In what ways might a feeble executive be as dangerous as an overly energetic one? Why?**

2. “The Court has a role in the institutional politics of the nation, ...the members of the Court are political players themselves, and...the Court’s decisions can dramatically affect the nation’s political fate.” Do you agree or disagree with the opinion of a scholar expressed here? Why or why not? What evidence can you offer to support your position?

- **In what ways does the system of checks and balances limit the power of the Supreme Court? Are additional checks and/or balances needed? Why or why not?**

- **No institution other than the Supreme Court is asked to explain itself through written opinions. What purposes do written opinions serve and how important are they in a democratic society?**

**In 2014, Idaho sent to
2 teams to the WTP
Nationals.**

**Orofino, coached by
Pamela Danielson,
attended as a wildcard.**

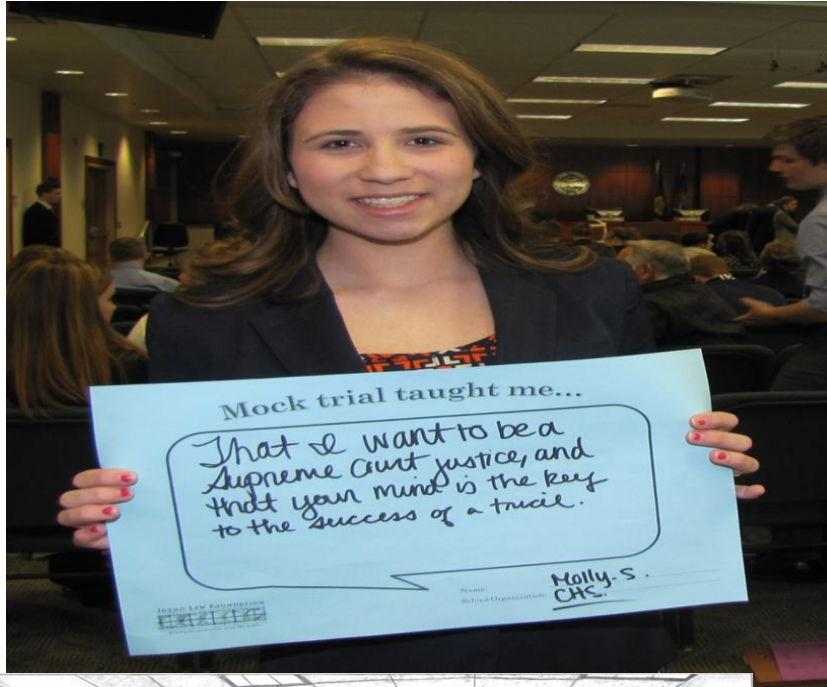


A We The People simulated congressional hearing on Capitol Hill at the 2014 National Finals.



❖ Idaho Mock Trial (February and March 2015)

- http://www.isb.idaho.gov/ilf/lre/mock_trial.html
- Sponsored by the Law Related Education Program of the Idaho Law Foundation, teaches students in grades 9-12 about the law and the legal system by participating in a simulated trial.
- In addition to the Competition, the Law Related Education Program also supports the ***Mock Trial in the Classroom Project*** to expose students who do not participate in the competition to the benefits of the Mock Trial Program.
- The ***Courtroom Artist Contest*** is open to students in grades 9 to 12, to allow artistically talented students the opportunity to participate in the mock trial program. Artists observe trials and submit sketches that depict actual courtroom scenes. Participants can be part of a team or enter on their own.
- The mock trial program needs attorneys and non-attorney community members to serve as coaches, judges, and competition support.





The National High School Mock Trial Championship is part of the Law Related Education's Idaho High School Mock Trial Program. The goal of mock trial is to enhance public understanding of and respect for the courts and our legal system.

MAY 2016 NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL IN BOISE



ABOUT

MOCK TRIAL

Each autumn students across the country get ready to go to court, not because they have to, but because they want to. These young people immerse themselves in the inner workings of our judicial system, learning rules of evidence and procedure and confronting the complexity of some of our most challenging legal issues. By the spring, they are ready to participate in their state mock trial competitions.

The goal of mock trial is not to win for the sake of winning, but to learn and understand the meaning of good citizenship in our democracy. The program:

- Increases comprehension of the historical, ethical, and philosophical basis of our judicial system while demystifying the law and court procedures.
- Builds bridges of natural cooperation, respect, and support between students and the legal profession.
- Offers a positive experience with the legal system, bringing the courts to young people rather than young people to court.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Participants: 20,000 students from the United States, Guam, South Korea, and the Northern Mariana Islands participate annually in mock trial programs. Each state's championship team has the opportunity to compete at the National High School Mock Trial Championship in May. Idaho has participated in the national tournament for 16 years and in 2012 placed 5th, the highest place ever for an Idaho team. **From May 12 to 14, 2016**, the mock trial nationals will occur in Boise.

Civic Education in Action: At Boise's national mock trial Championship, students will experience a premier, hands-on academic exercise that will further their understanding of our legal system and our democracy. Boise's Championship will highlight our courts and our beautiful state as we host a pleasant and memorable event for students, their families, attorneys, and judges from all corners of the globe.

Boise 2016: From **May 12 to 14, 2016** Boise will host over 1,000 visitors at an event expected to bring over \$1 million to our local economy. This event will showcase Idaho's commitment to civic education and our spectacular natural setting, higher education opportunities, and gracious hospitality.

JOIN US!

We welcome all volunteers interested in planning, organizing, judging, or facilitating the 2016 National High School Mock Trial Championship.

We welcome tax-deductible donations to support the event. We are committed to raising \$100,000 by the end of 2015.

For more information, visit the Idaho Law Foundation's website or contact Carey Shoufler at (208) 334-4500 or cshoufler@isb.idaho.gov or Celeste Miller at (208) 343-7500 or ck@mcdevitt-miller.com.

WWW.IDAHOLAWFOUNDATION.ORG



❖ **The 2016 National Mock Trial Host Committee needs:**

- 75-100 judges per round (4 rounds plus finals)
- Help with logistics (food, transport, orientation)
- Help with social events for judges and competitors
- Scorekeepers and runners during the competition
- Social media
- Fundraising

Over 1,000 visitors to Boise are expected!



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

For 77 years, the Treasure Valley Family YMCA Youth in Government program has engaged high school students across the great state of Idaho in an opportunity to obtain real life experience simulating and fulfilling the roles and responsibilities of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government.

Youth in Government program participants are actively immersed in civil engagement through developing skills in properly writing bills, parliamentary procedure, moot court competitions, lobbying, and even electing official officers which include the Governor, Chief Justice, Appellate Judge and more.

As school and YMCA groups compete and hold workshops at local Regional Conventions they work on preparing for the final State Convention held in Boise each year at the State Capital Building. Youth participants can earn awards, scholarships or even go on to participate nationally at the Conference of National Affairs representing all Idaho Youth in Government delegates.

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers- Advising support, judges, Moot Court competitions,
Regional conventions, and State Convention

School or YMCA group advisors

Co-group advisors

Sponsorship and much more!

COMMITMENT

Investment in the YMCA Youth in Government program can be given through a variety of ways including sponsorship, becoming an advisor or even volunteering at a convention. Your support helps to directly impact the lives of youth throughout Idaho and provide an invaluable opportunity through civil engagement.

Codi Cronin

Youth Coordinator

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<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aaG3LFTnSCQ>

YOU ARE INVITED

NEXT ACE MEETING:

January 15, 2015
12:00 pm
Water Center 5th floor

Call in information:

Dial 1-888-706-6468, Enter Passcode 580625

Subsequent meetings – every other month,
third Thursday

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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